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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/709,491 | 05/10/2004 | Wanchai Ratanasirigulchai | 22.1539 | 3490 |
| 35204 | 7590 | 01/18/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| SCHLUMBERGER RESERVOIR COMPLETIONS | | | DANG, HOANG C | |
| 14910 AIRLINE ROAD | | | ART UNIT | |
| ROSHARON, TX 77583 | | | PAPER NUMBER | |

3672

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-21 and 25, drawn to an apparatus for use in a well operations or a method of protecting a downhole tool for use in a well, classified in class 166, subclass 297.
 - II. Claims 22-24, drawn to a perforating gun, classified in class 166, subclass 55.1.
 - III. Claims 26-31, drawn to an apparatus for use in holding a downhole tool or a method of protecting a downhole tool, classified in class 206, subclass 3.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the shaped charge surrounded by a thermal coating, loading tube and hollow carrier called for in the subcombination claim are not required by the combination claims. The subcombination has separate utility such as means for perforating holes in a casing.
3. Inventions I or II and III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different functions, namely, in Inventions I and II, the thermal coating

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is applied to a downhole tool whereas in Inventions III, the thermal coating is applied to the container or/and packing material inside the container for shipping or storing purposes.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and the search required for one Group is not required for another Group, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: the species of a perforating gun (claims 2-12); the species of a tubing cutter (claims 13-15); the species of a detonator (claims 16-18); and the species of a detonating cord (claim 19); and the species of an explosive actuator (claim 20), respectively.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1, 21 and 25 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

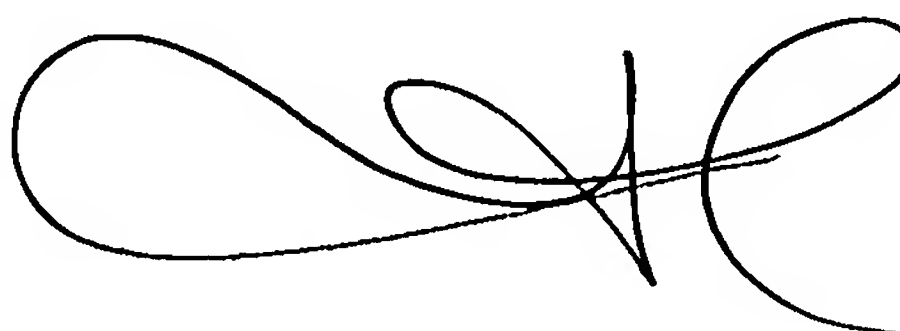
6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Dang whose telephone number is 571-272-7028. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:15-5:45 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hoang Dang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a series of smaller, overlapping loops and a final vertical stroke.